

# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

Annual Subscription: \$3.00

17, ROUTE DE MALAGNOU, GENEVA

Printed in the U. S. A.

297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10

Tel.: GRamercy 5-3475 — Cable Address: "Worcil"

under the auspices of

the WORLD COUNCIL of CHURCHES (in process of formation)

the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL

the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES

the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

the WORLD COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



---

The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

---

No. 5

Sixteenth Year

February 4, 1949

## GERMANY

### Conference on German Refugee Problems

A fact-finding conference on the future of the more than 10,000,000 refugees who present such an acute problem for Germany will be held at Hamburg from February 22-24, 1949. The conference which is being convened by the Refugee Division of the World Council of Churches with the approval of the British Foreign Office, will be attended by representatives of the German Evangelical Church and its relief organisation, of the German civilian authorities and the refugees' own organisation, and Control Commission Germany (British Element).

The Conference will consider, in particular, practical solutions of the problems of German expelled from other regions and countries into the British Zone, following the post-war alterations of the frontiers of Germany. Observers are being invited from the American and French Zones in order to ensure liaison for any future over-all plan for Trizonia and to keep in mind the essential unity of the problems to be faced. Unlike the 1,000,000 Displaced Persons who are eligible for care and maintenance by the International Refugee Organisation, these more than 10,000,000 post-war refugees do not qualify for United Nations care. They consist of the following categories:

1) 9,000,000 Germans whose expulsion was authorised by the Potsdam Agreement from regions of the former German Reich incorporated in neighbour countries since the end of the late war, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

2) Volksdeutsche, (mostly descendants of German colonists, settled in countries of the Danubian basin as far back as the Middle Ages) who have been expelled from Bulgaria, Roumania and Yugoslavia since the war.

3) Distinct from the above two categories of authorised "expellees" are some thousands of refugees from Communist dominated countries who have fled by clandestine means from the eastern zone of Germany, Hungary and Roumania, claiming that their lives and liberties are jeopardised by their political and religious opinions. In many instances their misery and destitution is extreme.

The purpose of the Conference will be:



under the control of

of WOMEN COUNCILS in CHURCHES (in process of formation)  
an INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL  
of WORLD ALLIANCE in INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES (in process of formation)  
of WORLD ALLIANCE in CHURCHES (in process of formation)  
of WOMEN'S YOUTH COUNCILS (in process of formation)  
of WOMEN'S STUDENT COUNCILS (in process of formation)  
of WOMEN'S COUNCILS in CHURCHES (in process of formation)



The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep the members informed of trends of thought and action in and about the Christian and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

February 4, 1949

Sixteenth Year

No. 2

### Conference on German Refugee Problems

GERMANY

A fact-finding conference on the future of the more than 10,000,000 refugees who present such an acute problem for Germany will be held at Hamburg from February 22-24, 1949. The conference, which is being convened by the Refugee Division of the World Council of Churches, will be attended by representatives of the British Foreign Office, of the German Government, of the German Evangelical Church and its relief organization, of the German authorities and the refugees' own organization, and Control Commission Germany (British Element).

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2024

The Conference will consider, in particular, practical solutions of the problems of German expelled from other regions and countries into the British Zone, following the post-war alterations of the frontiers of Germany. Observers are being invited from the American and French Zones in order to ensure liaison for any future over-all plan for Germany and to help in making the essential unity of the problems to be faced. Within the 1,000,000 displaced persons who are eligible for care and maintenance by the International Refugee Commission, there were more than 10,000,000 refugees who are not eligible for United Nations care. They consist of the following categories:

1) 9,000,000 Germans whose expulsion was authorized by the Potsdam Agreement from regions of the former German Reich incorporated in neighboring countries since the end of the last war, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

2) Volksdeutsche, (mostly descendants of German colonists, settled in countries of the Danubian basin as far back as the Middle Ages) who have been expelled from Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia since the war.

3) Distinct from the above two categories of authorized "expellees" are some thousands of refugees from German-occupied countries who have fled by clandestine means from the eastern zone of Germany, Hungary and Romania.

[https://archive.org/details/eni-bulletin\\_1949-02-04\\_16\\_5](https://archive.org/details/eni-bulletin_1949-02-04_16_5)



(a) To verify and assemble facts about the present position of these various categories of refugees, not eligible for I.R.O. care, their basic needs and the conditions needed to ensure their full employment, redistribution and/or re-settlement.

(b) To examine in general and in specific cases the possibility of financing schemes of economic rehabilitation from "Counterpart" funds under Economic Cooperation Administration (set up by the United States Foreign Assistance Act of 1948).

The refugees are adherents of a diversity of religious denominations and an important aspect of the task of re-settlement is to ensure selection and training appropriate to the new environment in which they are to be re-settled. The Refugee Division of the World Council of Churches which coordinates the work undertaken by the many Protestant Church bodies both inside and outside Germany for the spiritual care and re-settlement of refugees, has given particular attention to this aspect.

The Conference, which will be conducted in both German and English, will meet in private session but will issue a communiqué on its findings. The names of those taking part will shortly be communicated.

The Conference will be presided over by the Rev. Henry Carter, C.B.E. Chairman of the World Council of Churches Standing Conference on Refugees, who in the length and distinction of his service has been one of the most outstanding protagonists of the refugee cause.

E.P.S. Geneva

#### Asian Leaders' Conference of the World's Student Christian Federation

The World's Student Christian Federation decided two years ago to hold a conference for the leaders of the Student Christian Movements in Asia, and since that time it devoted a large part of its efforts, its resources and the time of its staff to the preparation of this event. In spite of many financial difficulties and of the obstacles arising out of the political unrest in Asia, the Conference was finally held in Kandy, the former capital of Ceylon, from December 17, 1948 to January 4, 1949 (see E.P.S. No. 3).

The Conference was extremely representative since it included delegates of all Student Christian Movements affiliated to the Federation in Asia, and even a few representatives of student groups which are still in process of constitution. Eleven countries of Asia were represented and in addition the Student Christian Movements of Australia and New Zealand also sent delegations. Part of the Conference was devoted to the consideration of regional problems of Asia and as a result of these discussions the movements represented at this meeting decided to organise themselves into two area councils; the South East Asian Council including the Student Christian Movements of the Philippines, Siam, Indonesia, Malaya and Burma, and another council in which the older movements of Japan, Korea, China, India, Pakistan and Ceylon would be grouped together. The desire was also expressed that in future gatherings of the same nature Australia and New Zealand should be cordially invited to send fraternal delegates.







The aim of the Conference was essentially to train Student Christian Movement leaders and it may be said that it really achieved this purpose. A large part of the programme was devoted to the study and discussion of the nature of a Student Christian Movement, its aims and bases, the content of its programme and particularly the methods of Bible study and the problems of evangelism. A great deal of attention was given to political problems and this was inevitable in view of the circumstances in which the Conference met. For the Conference was opened at the same time as the Press announced the second Dutch police action in Indonesia and two Indonesian delegates took part in the Conference. And eight Chinese leaders were present and they had left their country without knowing whether they would be able to go back home after the Conference was over.

Nevertheless, the main emphasis of the Conference was definitely on the basic question of evangelism. It was pointed out again, both by the speakers and by the delegates, that the fundamental task with which Student Christian Movements in Asia are confronted today, is that of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It became clear from all discussions that Christian witness in Asia is faced with increasingly difficult conditions, namely with non-Christian religions which become more and more conscious of themselves and therefore more and more hostile to any attempt by Christians to confess their faith. Particular attention was paid to the aggressiveness of militant Hinduism and Islam, particular care was given to all questions concerning Bible study and a desire was strongly expressed that both the S.C.M. in Asia and the World's Student Christian Federation should devote a major part of their efforts to the promotion of Bible study. It was made clear that Bible study can and must be the source of intellectual conviction and spiritual strength of Christians in a hostile world.

The Conference in itself was a very valuable and fruitful ecumenical experience for its members and many discussions were devoted to ecumenical problems. It was emphasised that Student Christian Movements must feel particularly responsible for calling their members to a full participation in the life of the Church by taking the greatest possible share in the life of local congregations and by pioneering humbly but firmly for the reunion of the Churches.

This meeting is an important step in the life of Student Christian Movements of Asia and can be a decisive step in the development of the World's Student Christian Federation in which Asia is called to play a growing part.

E.P.S. Geneva

#### UNITED STATES

#### The Federal Council of Churches and the Indonesian Situation

The Executive Committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America adopted on January 18, 1949 the following statement on the Churches and the Indonesian situation:

"The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America notes with warm appreciation the pastoral letter of the Protestant Church of Indonesia of June 1948, the letter of the General Synod of the Netherlands Reformed Church addressed to the Netherlands Government on September 22, 1948, and the statement of the same Synod adopted on January 14, 1949 (see E.P.S. No. 4). The Federal





Council joins with these other Christian bodies in support of the political independence of Indonesia.

"We welcome the repeated assurances of the Netherlands Government, mentioned in the recent statement of the General Synod, that the Government continues to be committed to immediate Indonesian independence. We share the concern of the General Synod over the adverse effect of recent military measures upon the mutual confidence between the peoples of Indonesia and of the Netherlands; for such confidence is essential to helpful relations between these nations and to peace, especially in Asia but also in the world. The statement of the General Synod, is commended to the American Churches for their careful attention.

"We express the earnest hope that the present conflict may soon be resolved and urge that the assistance of the United Nations to that end be accepted by the parties involved.

"We are gratified that, despite the political complications and tensions, the Churches of the Netherlands and of Indonesia have brought about the organisation of independent synods in Indonesia with the understanding of continued help without control from the Churches of the Netherlands. In principle and policy the Churches have thus set an example that should be suggestive and inspiring for the solution of the political problems.

"To our fellow-Christians in both lands we give assurance of our sympathetic fellowship and of our prayers that they may be guided and strengthened by Almighty God in their efforts to maintain and extend freedom, justice, peace and goodwill."

E.P.S.Geneva

## SPAIN

## News of the Protestant Communities

No. 93-4 of "Morning Star", the bulletin of the Pro Hispana movement, contains the following information regarding Protestant communities in Spain;

In July of last year, a camp was organised on the mountain close to the Escorial by the young Protestants of Madrid.

At Seville a new church of the Spanish Reformed Church was inaugurated on August 8. On that evening members of the various Churches of Spain met to hold a service of thanksgiving, but many persons were unable to get into the church for lack of space.

The Evangelical church of St. Paul in Barcelona recently celebrated its eightieth anniversary. This church is at the centre of all evangelistic work in the area, and may be considered the mother-church for all Catalonia.

Work in Northern Spain is continuing as usual, although difficulties are not to seek. Stones have been thrown in San Sebastian at people going to worship in a private house; these were wrapped in paper on which was written "Blessed be the Virgin! Down with Luther! Down with the Protestants!" Young men belonging to the Catholic Action movement had scribbled on the walls of the shop owned by the householder offering hospitality for the service, "Don't buy







anything here, they are Protestants". In spite of these obstacles, however, the Prefect of Police is still allowing members to meet, and services are being held as usual.

E.P.S.Geneva

#### GREAT BRITAIN

#### UNESCO and Religion

Speaking as a supporter of UNESCO in the House of Lords' debate on January 26, the Bishop of Chichester (the Right Rev. G.K.A.Bell) drew attention to a danger in the immediate trend of policy whereby the preponderant place might be occupied by science and scientific technique. "In Part III, the budget for the programme of operations, out of a total of 4,300,000 dollars", he said, "1,500,000 dollars are assigned to mass communication, which is scientific technique in the main; 679,000 dollars to national science and 286,000 dollars to social science. Moreover, the operation concerned with education and cultural activities and reconstruction is generally occupied with questions of scientific technique and the role of science in education...

"I have no wish to belittle science in the promotion of human welfare, or the estimable boons it confers on backward people, but I do quarrel with the idea that the more science there is in the world the better the world becomes; and in the report of the late Director-General and the attitude behind the programme for 1949 which he has helped to formulate, I do detect too great a belief in the perfect-ability of man by material means, and too little sense of the power of spiritual factors."

The Bishop pointed out that "the breach of the communion between the spiritual and the rational order is the most formidable problem that confronts the modern world. That is why I say that the fundamental crisis is a cultural crisis which cannot be met by... a great many instruments on the material and scientific plane. It needs the help of the artist, the poet, the writer, the painter, the sculptor; and, above all, it needs the help of religion. It is therefore of extraordinary importance that UNESCO is committed by its constitution to the interest and maintenance of cultures. And in my opinion UNESCO in its operation and its whole approach to cultures, should recognise the place held by religion in culture..."

E.P.S.Geneva

#### FRANCE

#### Work of the Martin Bucer Institute

On February 1, 1949, the recently-founded Martin Bucer Institute in Strasbourg was formally opened. Its work is to train young people for various lay offices in the service of the Church. The Institute was founded by the Evangelical Association of Strasbourg, with support from the Lutheran and Reformed Churches. The Institute is open to all who wish to work in the Church as lay preachers, catechists, deacons, parish secretaries, youth leaders, directors of centres, etc. Among the conditions it makes for acceptance are the following; firstly, full inward readiness for the service of the Church of Christ; completion of the candidate's eighteenth year; qualification in the first part of the Baccalauréat examination. The Dean of the Strasbourg Faculty of Theology is a member of the administrative committee, and a representative of the Free Churches is also to sit on that committee. A broad basis is thus ensured.



...in the light of these obstacles, however, the  
...is still allowing members to meet, and services are being held  
...as usual.

# UNESCO and Religion

# UNESCO and Religion

Speaking as a supporter of UNESCO in the House of Lords' debate on  
January 26, the Bishop of Chester (the Right Rev. G.A.A. Bell) drew attention  
to a danger in the immediate trend of policy whereby the predominant place might  
be occupied by science and scientific technique. "In Part III, the budget for  
the programme of operations, out of a total of £4,300,000 dollars", he said,  
£1,500,000 dollars are assigned to what is called 'communication', which is scientific  
technique in the main; £79,000 dollars to natural science and £80,000 dollars  
to social science. Moreover, the operation concerned with education and cultural  
activities and research is generally occupied with questions of scientific  
technique and the role of science in education...

"I have no wish to belittle science in the promotion of human welfare,  
or the estimate of its contribution to backward people, but I do quarrel with the  
idea that the more science there is in the world the better the world becomes;  
and in the report of the late Professor General and the attitude behind the pro-  
gramme for 1949 which he has helped to formulate, I do detect the great belief  
in the perfectibility of man by material means, and the little sense of the  
power of spiritual factors."

The Bishop pointed out that "the breach of the communion between the  
spiritual and the material world is the most formidable problem that confronts  
the modern world. That is why I say that the fundamental crisis is a spiritual  
crisis which cannot be met by... a great many instruments in the material and  
scientific plane. It needs the help of the artist, the poet, the writer, the  
painter, the sculptor; and, above all, it needs the help of religion. It is  
therefore of extraordinary importance that UNESCO be concerned by the spiritual  
side to the material and advancement of culture, and in my opinion UNESCO is  
the organization and the whole approach to culture, should recognize the place held  
by religion in culture..."

# Work of the Martin Luther Institute

# FINANCE

On February 1, 1949, the newly-founded Martin Luther Institute in  
Stensborg was formally opened. The work is to train young people for various  
lay offices in the service of the Church. The Institute was founded by the Evan-  
gelical Association of Stensborg, with support from the Lutheran and Reformed  
Churches. The Institute is open to all who wish to work in the Church as lay  
workers, catechists, deacons, parish secretaries, youth leaders, directors of  
choirs, etc. Among the conditions for the service of the Church of Christ, compe-  
tence of the candidate's eighteenth year, qualification in the first part of the  
Baccalaureate examination. The Dean of the Stensborg Society of Theology is a  
member of the administrative committee, and a representative of the three Churches  
is also to sit on that committee. A broad basis is thus ensured.



The spirit in which the Institute means to carry out its task is described in the weekly paper published by the Reformed Church of France, "Le Christianisme au XXme Siècle";

"This task will be taken on in the hope that at the same time the authorities of the Protestant Churches of France will take on their task, i.e. that they will work for the recognition of ministry by laymen, and for such ministry to be regulated and carried out accordingly.

"In taking the initiative in this way, the founders of the Martin Bucer Institute consider that the time has come for a recognition in principle and an admission de jure and de facto within the Church of the various ministries which we see in the primitive Church, and which it is no longer right to keep in the form of one single ministry."  
E.P.S.Geneva

#### New Ecumenical Patriarch in Europe

The new Ecumenical Patriarch visited Paris on January 24, on his way from America to Constantinople. Patriarch Athenagoras was welcomed by his Exarch in Western Europe, Metropolitan Germanos, of Thyateira, by Metropolitan Vladimir, the supreme head of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Emigration, affiliated to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and by other church dignitaries. During his short stay in the French capital, Patriarch Athenagoras had discussions with a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had come over to Paris for the occasion, and with a delegation from the Greek colony and from other Orthodox groups in Paris. After a service in the Greek church, another was held in the Russian cathedral, where the Patriarch in his address (translated by Bishop Cassian) emphasised the importance of the Russian Churches to ecumenical Orthodoxy.

Soon after his arrival in Constantinople the solemn enthronement of the Ecumenical Patriarch took place.  
E.P.S.Geneva

#### U.S.S.R.

#### Patriarchate Blames Rome

Volume 10 of the periodical published by the Moscow Patriarchate contains a detailed report of the funeral on September 22, 1948 in Lvov of Bishop P. Kostelnikov, who was assassinated there. Bishop Kostelnik was formerly a priest of the Uniate Church, i.e. a Church owing allegiance to Rome but worshipping by Slavonic rites, and made an important contribution towards the integration of that Church into the Russian Orthodox Church.

Bishop Kostelnik had, according to the tribute paid to his memory by Archbishop Macarius of Lvov, been denouncing since 1930 "the historical falsity of the Papacy", and "branding the Vatican's principle of 'Union' as an evil to be combated". The Bishop, "whose name will be for ever honoured in the annals of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian people, fell murdered by a German-Ukrainian nationalist incited by the Vatican, which could not allow to pass the immense loss represented by the secession of the Uniate Church".

Metropolitan Nicholas of Krutiza and Kolomna has likewise stated that Bishop Kostelnik was "murdered by an agent of the Vatican". Patriarch







Alexius has associated himself with this statement, and has further expressed the opinion that the assassin (who committed suicide after his crime), "coming from the underground movement of the nationalist bourgeoisie in the Ukraine, doubtless acted at the Vatican's instigation, the latter wishing to take vengeance upon its unfaithful priest. May God console us in our bereavement", the Patriarch continues, "and inspire fresh fighters for the holy cause of Orthodoxy from our midst".

This charge is repudiated in Vatican circles. It is stated that the Vatican had nothing to do with the death of Bishop Kostelnik. E.P.S. Geneva

#### FRANCE

#### Meeting of French and German Pastors

From January 7 to 19, a unique ecumenical meeting took place in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, under the auspices of the Mission of Fellowship to the Churches of Europe of the American Board of Missions (Congregational). A consistory of 13 French pastors was host to an equal number of German Evangelical ministers from several synods in the Rhineland. The theme of the meeting was; What Christ is saying to His Church today concerning man, the world and the Church itself.

In three different ways an extraordinary sense of communion grew up between the men who took part in this ecumenical adventure; A solid theological exchange was carried out. A real friendship was established in discussion, which led to invitations for all the German group to spend the remainder of the week in one or another of the mountain and valley parishes of the French pastors. There they were invited to participate in the parish work and even to preach in the Sunday service.

One of the twelve theses drawn together by the participants in the meeting stresses that only because "we are reconciled with God" does "the community of the Church witness to the world that uniquely in the spirit of Jesus Christ can reconciliation between men and peace between nations be realised."

The German pastors invited their French colleagues to continue this discussion in Christ at Meisenheim during August, and the invitation was gladly accepted. E.P.S. Geneva

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

#### Professor Hromadka on Peace

Prof. J.L. Hromadka expounded his Christian conception of peace in an address delivered to 2500 people who attended an evangelistic meeting, held by the Council of Christian Churches in Czechoslovakia on January 11, in Slovansky Dum at Prague. This centre of cultural activities is also used for meetings of the Communist Party and other organisations.

Professor Hromadka said; "We are gathered together not in the name of a national or a political ideology, but in the name of the Crucified and Risen Christ. Our assembly wishes to bear witness before all men that the authority, mercy and love of our Lord are dearer to us than all the goods of this world. They can give us such strength that we fear nothing and proclaim our message in tranquillity of mind..."





"To be disciples of Christ demands of men a great, decisive Yes. We are not called upon to turn aside from important tasks and responsibilities, but, on the contrary, to set about freeing the new society from all the sins and the hurtful things with which it is permeated and to help, in quietness of spirit, to spread the atmosphere of genuine love. Let us learn from the children of this world, for, in the words of Christ to His disciples, the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. Instead of giving way to grumbling and malice and hatred, let us learn to overcome the things that are wrong by ways that are right...

"Peace at any price - that is not the peace of Jesus Christ, Who, being the Truth, is able to introduce uneasiness and anxiety into human hearts... The uneasiness in our hearts and the confusion in the world are a punishment for our sins...

"The guilt rests in the first place with us, and not with those who because of our unfaith are turning away from the living God... Peace on earth is a precious gift. It has been most grievously fought and suffered for by Him Who died on the Cross, and it has to be fought for too by those whom God has called. We have our orders to take this message of peace into the whole world. What is more great and more dignified today than to confess Jesus Christ?..."

E.P.S. Geneva

#### GERMANY

#### Position of the Evangelical Church in Silesia

Owing to the deportation of the vast majority of Germans in that part of Silesia which is now under the Polish Government, the Church of Silesia has been going through a period of painful readjustment. German-speaking Evangelicals in Lower Silesia now number 40-50,000, and are cared for by two pastors, two preachers and some eighty lay readers. In addition to this permanent work, about forty deaconesses are serving in the area.

The Administration of the Evangelical Church of Silesia has issued the following information concerning the present situation of its districts under Polish authority at the beginning of 1949;

"As most of the German miners have remained in this area, there are still 14,000 German Evangelicals there. In the areas of Schweidnitz, Hirschberg, Glatz and Landshut there are about 7,400 all told. In the rest of Silesia it is estimated that there are another 20,000.

"A particular difficulty under which our Churches have long suffered is the fact that since the end of the war German children in the Waldenburg district have been getting no schooling. Now and then, certainly, we hear talk of setting up a minority school, but nothing has come of this.

"None the less, all these troubles are illuminated by the living life of the Church. In every one of the fourteen parishes of the district of Waldenburg the little nuclei of congregations have been meeting more and more regularly and faithfully, and visiting one another for their services." E.P.S. Geneva



